Joseph W. Eldor
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.
160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

[redacted]
Missouri

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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 191
Phone 215-563-9372

September 17, 1969

[redacted] Missouri

Dear [redacted]

I am writing to bring you up-to-date on my recent efforts to return to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, about which I wrote to you in my letter of July 25, 1969.

I have returned to the United States after spending the last three weeks attempting to make air-connections to Hanoi where I hope to deliver the open heart surgery supplies and to deliver the letters I have for the American prisoners of war being detained by the DRVN. Unfortunately, the flooding of the Mekong and Red Rivers has necessitated repeated cancellation of flights and has made it impossible for the authorities in the DRVN to receive me. In addition, the death of President Ho Chi Minh of the DRVN has required them to direct their attentions to arrangements for his state funeral.

After conversations which I had with DRVN representatives in both Cambodia and Laos, we agreed that I should postpone my return to Hanoi until October. Accordingly, I have now returned to the United States to resume my academic responsibilities and plan to return to Southeast Asia in October. The exact date of my return remains to be confirmed.

I very much regret that at this point I cannot report that I have been able to deliver the letters for prisoners of war to the appropriate authorities in the DRVN, but I hope to be able to report this to you after October when I have completed my mission.

Most sincerely yours,

Joe Elder

Joseph W. Elder

Joseph W. Elder
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.
160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

PHILADELPHIA SEP 10 '69 PA.

[redacted] Missouri

Bolman
b7c

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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Phone 215-563-9372

GILBERT F. WHITE
Chairman
HENRY J. CADBURY
Honorary Chairman
STEPHEN G. CARY
Acting Executive Secretary

August 6, 1968

[redacted] Missouri

Dear Friend:

We have just returned from Hanoi where we had gone at the invitation of the Peace Committee of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to escort three released American pilots back to their families in the United States.

While in Hanoi we suggested to the Vietnamese authorities that we would be glad to bring back with us letters from captured American pilots to relatives or friends in the States. As we were leaving we were given fifty such letters, including the one enclosed addressed to you.

As you may well imagine it was a deeply gratifying privilege to be able to play a modest role in returning these three captured pilots to their families. You may have seen press stories which gave their names: Major James Frederick Low, Major Fred Neale Thompson, and Captain Joe Victor Carpenter, all Air Force officers. All three are in good shape, both physically and mentally, and spoke both publicly and to us privately of the good treatment they and the other pilots have received at the hands of the Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese described the release of the pilots as a humanitarian gesture in response to the growing sentiment in the United States for an end to military intervention in Vietnam. We were impressed with their sincerity and we have done all that we could to carry out our part in the release in a spirit consistent with theirs.

I think you may be interested in the enclosed press release which we cabled from Hanoi for release in the U.S. the day before we left Hanoi on August 2. Happily Ambassador Sullivan in Vientiane did not bring undue pressure on the three pilots to return by military aircraft as we had feared he might. As a result their free choice of return by commercial aircraft with us was respected and fulfilled.

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We believe that this is consistent with the spirit of their release and that it may well leave the door open for further releases of a similar sort. Regarding this possibility we have hopes, but no assurances.

We did not have opportunity to see any captured pilots other than the three who returned with us. In general the impression we have gotten is that health care is excellent, food is well balanced and adequate, and that the attitude of the authorities in dealing with the captured pilots is humane and considerate.

Our own feeling after this visit to Hanoi is that U.S. military intervention in Vietnam has neither rational purpose, nor moral justification. We do not believe that the Vietnamese can be defeated. They are staunch, intelligent, and thoroughly united in a determined struggle against what they understandably describe as American aggression against their independence and freedom. At the same time they retain strong attitudes of friendship toward the American people. They say over and over again that they do not believe that most Americans support the policies of the U.S. government in Vietnam. We of the U.S. peace and anti-war movement are trying to help make it so.

In any event we hope that these pilot releases may lead to others, and that there may come about on the U.S. side a larger willingness to take similar creative initiatives which will bring this war, and U.S. military intervention in Vietnam to an end.

If there are further questions you would like to raise with us please feel free to let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon Grizzard

Anne Scheer

Stewart Meacham

Vernon Grizzard
10 Gilmore Street
Cambridge, Mass.

(Draft Resistance Organizer)

Anne Wells Scheer
6468 Benvenue Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94618

(Chairman, Oakland Seven Defense Committee)

Stewart Meacham
Peace Education Secretary
American Friends Service Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

Three American representatives of the anti war movement who went to Hanoi July 12 to escort three released American pilots back to their families announced today that they will be returning to New-York with the flyers via Vientiane and Bangkok. They will leave Hanoi on the ICC plane on Friday August 2. Earlier they had planned to return leaving Hanoi July 19. They were unable to hold to this schedule after an AP wire service report reached Hanoi on the morning of Thursday July 18 stating that William Sullivan, US Ambassador to Laos had announced in Vientiane that he planned to meet the released pilots at the Vientiane airport and fly them by military aircraft to the US Airforce base at Udorn, Thailand. The Udorn air base has recently come under mortar attack by insurgent Thai Liberation Forces.

Ambassador Sullivan had told the members of the three man escort team that he prefered that the pilots not return to their families by commercial aircraft escorted by peace movement representatives. He said that he personally would tell the flyers upon their arrival in Vientiane that "It is the considered preference of the US Airforce that you return to the United States by military aircraft".

The released pilots are : James Frederick Low, Joe Victor Carpenter and Fred Neale Thompson. All are US Airforce officers.

The members of the escort team are : Vernon Grizzard of Boston, a draft resistance organizer and former national officer of Students for a Democratic Society, Stewart Meacham of Philadelphia, National Peace Education Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, and Anne Weills Scheer of Oakland, California, Chairman of Oakland Seven Defense Committee and active in radical women's organizations in the bay area.

A member of the American escort team, speaking for the group, cabled from Hanoi : "At the ceremony releasing the pilots on July 18 the Vietnamese spokesman stated "It is our hope that the pilots will be allowed to rejoin their respective families at an early date. We thank you, representatives of the US anti war movement, for having taken upon yourselves to bring them home, and we hope that you will not be hampered in your work". Thus the Vietnamese authorities have made it clear that they are releasing the pilots in the hope and expectation that the peace movement representatives will be permitted to return them directly to their families rather than to the US military which is now under attack in Thailand and which continues to bomb Vietnam.

"This seems to us to be a thoroughly understandable expectation from the point of view of the Vietnamese. As American opposed to the war in Vietnam and to the use of bases in Thailand

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against the Vietnamese we are clear that we should respond to this humanitarian gesture by doing all that we can to escort these men to their families. We regret that the announced intentions of the US authorities have somewhat complicated this task and temporarily delayed its completion.

"We are concerned about other captured pilots. We hope that others also may be released. The decision on this matter of course is up to the Vietnamese authorities. They have set no conditions and they have not told us of their plans but it is obvious to us that they are more likely to continue along a given course of action when their acts are accepted in good faith instead of being rebuffed by intervention on the part of the US authorities. We expressed these views and our anxiety about the future release of still other pilots to Mr. Harriman in Paris and to Mr. Sullivan in Vientiane. Both brushed aside our understanding of the situation as irrelevant".

The escort team expects to arrive in New-York with the pilots on August 4 or 5. Families of the pilots will be notified well in advance of the actual arrival time.

VERNON GRIZZARD
STEWART MEACHAM
ANNE WEILLS SCHEER

[redacted] [redacted]

PE1

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.
160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

PHILADELPHIA
AUG-7'68
PA.

VIA AIR MAIL

Bolivia
62c

[redacted]
Missouri

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I received your January letter and was very happy to get it John I hope you enjoyed the ~~practice~~ practice teaching at Belton and finished up the School year O.K. The area that is quite warm now but I am well Please give my best wishes to all my ~~many~~ friends and relatives.

[redacted]

BO 1-8-m-m
bc

My telephone(Area Code 516) Turner 8-8347

SPECIAL FILE FOR FRIENDS
"Operation-Bunny"
(Your participation is invited)

Mrs. Madeline E. Hartmann
661-North Fulton Ave.
Lindenhurst, New York, U.S., 11757

Dear Penfriend,

Quick like a Bunny, let's "bunny-hop" together on this. Please be advised that the Prime Minister of South Vietnam has kindly offered to help with my personal Penpal P gram between interested friends here in U.S. & the Vietnamese in So. Vietnam, coverin all age groups (adults too!). So he "stepped out of protocol" from his usual duties to help relay compiled lists of penfriends names & addresses, ages, interests & hobbies thru his office to proper places in South Vietnam, even though he is busy with a lo war. Info can be listed columnwise on a regular blue airletter or sent c rectly to his office to save us some. My Penpal Program not only includes plain int ted individuals, but also school-civic-business-religious-& club groups, the PTA, CIO, labor unions, the Military, handicapped, retarded, hospitalized, imprisoned, B.Y.S.A., ente tainers, Indians, Eskimos, Hawaiians, Puerto Ricans, also the United Nations, Vatican City hospitals, & other institutions, other countries & nations-overseas, so that none are f gotten. Even the smallest spot on the globe is being invited to participate in this gram. Please send your compiled penpal lists to (make carbons!) — also send U.S. & for

Prime Minister Ky Director Superior [illegible], Inc.-Saigon (talent, tapes, f
Admin Office Nat. Buddhist Center Saigon Cathedral (Code 100 (records, Bunnies;
Saigon, So. Vietnam Saigon, So. Vietnam Saigon, S. Vietnam (T.S.S. F.L.S. Calif. 962

I am trying to activate this penpal program in all of our 50 U.S. states just as I'm trying to do with "Project Handicap" (Corp/Marine). I'll plan to help needy people of V nam & other needy countries thru our Corps of [illegible] & clothing, office-c ool-school-farm-supplies, machinery & equipment, [illegible] & other no perishable "goodies" food, drink, [illegible], dried fruit, [illegible], personal prod vitamins (esp. Vit. C in 50 mg. or 100 mg. size), [illegible], & other nice colorful publications, cotton [illegible], [illegible], rubbers, rainwear, & housewares, etc. [illegible] on this S. must each be an "ALLIANCE OF GOOD WILL" [illegible] in all. Since I wri to penpals in over 50 countries (including [illegible]) [illegible] of our one U.S., I'll tell them if our U.S. of overseas has left [illegible]

Local news Comic

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[illegible] Program [illegible] countries all over the world.
By the way, [illegible] Vitamin C [illegible] Bacon, tangerine, lemon, & [illegible] & other things like [illegible] & its [illegible] nutritious [illegible] hotel, [illegible] & [illegible] meat, fish, & bird foods. But it will probably [illegible] slices of fatty cheese. It will be improved, more [illegible] if we need Vitamin C every day so it must be renewed again. [illegible] chicken can even be smoking a "nutritious cigarette" & drinking a more healthful wine, beer & brandy just because of this! Adding Vitamin C to most products will not only send improved products overseas, but will also help boost trade, business, nutritious amenities, health & friendship all over the world. Bunnies need it also & other pets. There are no Bunnies in Vietnam yet.

I'm requesting donations of any used or new gifts (items listed above) for both servicemen & needy Vietnamese, so your participation in any or all of the above programs is invited with helping to send donated gifts, letters, & cards to Vietnam thru donations of any "Space available" transportation, storage, regular mail or any other means. We've got to get these Stuffed Bunnies & other toys (used or new), dolls of all nations, & other gifts there! Don't forget the Gefillte Fisch, minced clams, sardines, Bouecht, Schnitzels, Scotch Scones, Chinese Chowmein, Chop Suey & Spaghetti.

To help needy Vietnamese, send to:—
Civil Affairs Officer
c/o US... Third Marine Amphibious Force
Military Assistance Command-Vietnam
FPO, San Fran, 96602 (Da Nang, So. Vietnam) Hoppe [illegible]

Send dainty gifts for our Military to—
Commanding Officer & Member s of
U.S. Third Marine Amphibious Force
FPO San Fran, 96602 (Da Nang, So. Vietnam)
Dear Lindy, New York-USA. Pentfriend, [illegible] "Pet" (Year of the Goat & the Ram,
(Mrs.) Madeline K. Hartmann

P.S.-Esso is sending Stuffed tigers [illegible] your name to the ever-growing list of ABC-TV, CBS-TV, NBC*TV, WINS Radio, WNEW, Friars Club, Wrigley's gum, Schaefers, Campbells Soup Co., & the N.Y. Mets, L.A. Press News, Disney Movies, Sweet & Low, Barricini Candies, Bonzoni Spaghetti, Perkins Cracking pets.

Madeline

Best that I have seen your cute letter. Please be advised old April issue of "Vietnam Courier" and Tet [illegible] you in

[illegible] a copy [illegible] friend of American [illegible] and Christmas and other greeting card sales write to [illegible] in Beijing, China [illegible] my dear friends, [illegible] participation [illegible] elsewhere. [illegible] Enjoy this letter [illegible] for further distribution in newspapers, other local, etc. publications. Thank for caring! MKH

M. K. Hartmann (Operation Blessing)
"Project Landscape" - 1
641 - North Fulton Ave
Lindenhurst, New York, 11757

E.O. 12812-2
b7C

[redacted]

Missouri

55

Dear Friend, Enclosed is the message whose contents I wired to you yesterday. This message and a number of others like it were handed to me by a North Vietnamese government representative just prior to boarding the International Control Commission plane that left Hanoi earlier this week. I am happy to be able to send this message along, and I am sorry I could not bring any further news or information about all the prisoners now in Viet Nam.

Yours sincerely, Bernard C. Davis

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Telegram

EO1-B1 b2

128P CDT AUG 9 69 KB195 MA324

N CC352 XCT1051 AD PDB RX TDC PWS NEW YORK NY 9 1217P CDT

[redacted] MISSOURI

1969 AUG 9 PM 1 38

LAST MONTH I WAS INVITED TO TRAVEL TO NORTH VIETNAM TO ESCORT HOME THREE AMERICAN PRISONERSWHO HAD BEEN RELEASED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. WHILE IN HANOI, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HANDED OVER TO ME SEVERAL UNSEALED MESSAGE FORMS FROM OTHER AMERICANS STILL IN THE CAMPS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THEIR FAMILIES IN THE STATES. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE: I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU ARE WELL AND HAPPY THIS SUMMER. I FEEL VERY GOOD. A BELATED HAPPY MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAY TO YOU, MOM AND DAD AND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU FOR THIS FALL. GIVE MY LOVE b7c AND BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE. 7 JULY 1969. [redacted]

THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE

IS BEING SENT TO YOU AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE

NFB 150P

Telegram

N CC352 XCT1051 AD/2

RENNARD C DAVIS

(1228).

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Dear Mr. [redacted]

Four days ago I received from a friend in Cuba a copy of a small newspaper, The Vietnam Courier: April 24, 1967, a paper hitherto unknown to me. On page 6 of this paper, in a column For The American Prisoners' Families, I find the following:

To Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] Missouri, U.S.A.

Hi Dad:

I have been given this opportunity to say hello and wish you, Mom, John, and the rest of my relatives and friends a most Happy New Year. You should be receiving a letter from me soon plus a New Year's card. I sure hope that all of you had a grand time during the holidays. I was given Christmas and New Year's treats which were very nice. I'm praying to see all of you soon.

Love,

[redacted]

I am taking the liberty of copying this letter and sending it to you because nothing is said in the newspaper about whether or not any effort was made to make the letter available to you.

If you have a minute to write to me I wonder if you would tell me if this letter is genuine or is it a fake made up for propaganda purposes?

If it is a genuine letter, I certainly hope that by now you have heard from your son in a more direct way.

Sincerely,

Dan Mahony

Daniel L Mahony

Mr. [redacted] Missouri

[illegible] N.Y. 07093 N.J. 7 06 22

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Dear Mr. [redacted] b(1)-(4)-(7) b2c

Many thanks for your letter; I wad quite pleased to hear from you.

b(1)-(4)-(7) b2c

When I suggested that I thought the letter in the Vietnam paper might not be genuine I meant that I had considered the possibility that the whole letter was a hoax in that there was no [redacted] was no [redacted] and that the whole letter was merely made up -- using fictitious names and addresses -- for a propaganda device. However, your letter convinces me that this is not so and I'm glad to know that you have heard from your son and have learned that he is in good health, albeit not too happy with his present lot.

You and your family are certainly welcome to the newspaper from which I copied your son's letter. I wish I could say you may keep the entire paper (which I am enclosing with this letter). However, I would like to ask that you return to me -- at your leisure -- pages 7 and 8. There is an article on this back page about some alleged "mutinies" and "suicides" on the parts of some U.S. soldiers in which I am at the moment interested. There have been some slight mention of these mutinies in the sort, hourly, 5-minute news broadcasts on some of the New York radio stations (I live in New Jersey just across the river from upper Manhattan) but so far these reports, and this newspaper article, are all the information I can learn about these. I must admit that this sort of thing is not what we in America have been led to believe about our army men. I am a veteran of World War II (U.S.Army SignalCorps) and I spent 3 years in the army and most of this time in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany, and I'm very certain I never heard anything about mutinies or suicides in my army career.

So if you would please return pages 7 and 8 of this paper to me (in no hurry) you are more then welcome to keep the rest of the paper.

Incidentally, just last night I bought another issue of this Vietnam Courier from a corner newspaper peddler in New York City. However, in this second issue (May 6th) there is no column entitled "For The American Prisoners' Families".

Thank you again for your letter, Mr. Woods, and I certainly hope that all goes well with your son in Vietnam.

Sincerely,

Dan Mahony

Dan Mahony

Mr. [redacted] Missouri

b(1)-(4)-(7) b2c

VIETNAM COURIER

April 24
1967
No 107
4th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY · E O : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street — Hanoi D. R V. — Tel 3841

NORTH VIETNAM

New U.S. Escalation in Haiphong *(April 20)* Duly Punished: 5 Aircraft Downed, Many Others Hit

UP TO APRIL 20 : 1,767 PLANES DOWNED

SOUTH VIETNAM

- **BIEN HOA** *(April 2)*: **1,000 G.I.'s Put Out Of Action 200 Armoured Vehicles, 34 Aircraft, 30 Cannons Destroyed**
- **CAN THO** *(April 13)*: **400 Puppet Soldiers Killed**

SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE'S BIG SUCCESSES, U.S. AND QUISLINGS' HEAVY SETBACKS

by Lieutenant-General VAN TIEN DUNG

(Excerpts)

I — UNREMITTINGLY SHATTERING U.S. STRATEGIC PLANS, THE SOUTH VIETNAM ARMY AND PEOPLE HAVE CEASELESSLY MAINTAINED AND PROMOTED THEIR INITIATIVE, STRENGTH AND WINNING POSITION, THEREBY AGGRAVATING U.S. LOSS OF INITIATIVE, WEAKNESSES AND SETBACKS

By embarking on a limited war of aggression, the Americans wanted to build up U.S. force rapidly and uninterruptedly, use U.S. and puppet troops as strategic forces with the former as the mainstay, carry out their counter-offensive strategy with a view to checking the wave of offensive of the South Vietnam army and people, wiping out regular L.A.F. units, regaining the initiative, turning the military tide and changing defeat into victory.

After the emergency despatch of GI's in the middle of 1965 — when the "special warfare" strategy had proved a failure — followed by a continuous flow of reinforcements, the U.S. command launched the first dry season strategic 1965-1966 counter-offensive with 200,000 U.S. soldiers, 30,000 satellite troops and 500,000 Saigon mercenaries. With such an important troop strength and great ambitions, they however sustained a bitter failure. In the momentum of their victory over the U.S. "special warfare" strategy, the South Vietnam army and people carried on their irresistible offensive, hitting hard at the GI's and bringing to nought the first U.S. strategic counter-offensive.

Significance and characteristics of the South Vietnam army and people's success and the enemy's failure:

-- It was the first staggering blow dealt at the U.S. expeditionary forces which, over confident in their numerical superiority, big firepower and great mobility, showed great truculence.

The Americans were unable to achieve their five strategic objectives, more particularly that aiming at "searching out the Vietcong to break their neck". To their utter surprise, instead of wiping out any single L.A.F. unit, they received blow after blow and lost whole companies, battalions and even task forces.

-- U.S. setback and our success were both military and political, but essentially military. The capacity of the South Vietnam army and people of defeating them on the battlefield with military means had become a reality in the first trial of strength between the people's war and the U.S. limited war of aggression.

The fiasco of their first counter-offensive strategy had driven the U.S. and puppet troops into a tighter corner in terms of morale, effectives, structures and materials. Hence, at the beginning of the 1966 rainy season, the U.S.-puppet command was from the strategical point of view temporarily forced back into the defensive: while preparing for a new strategic counter-offensive plan, it replenished troops and stepped up its build-up which finally ran to 400,000 GI's, 40,000 satellite and 500,000 puppet troops. But, giving the enemy no respite, the South Vietnam army and people successfully and relentlessly attacked them whatever the season and upset thoroughly their plans.

The remarkable successes of the South Vietnam army and people during this rainy season were unpleasant surprises for the U.S.-and puppet troops:

-- The rapid growth of the army and people in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces opened a new battlefield which upset the U.S. strategic battle array in the South Vietnam theatre and caused the U.S. command to hurriedly send troops there to cope with the new situation.

— Guerilla warfare in the plains, from Quang Tri and Thua Thien to Central Trung Bo and Nam Bo, made new headway, expanding evenly in all areas.

-- After the serious political crisis resulting from the massive dispatch of GI's and the failure of the first U.S. strategic counter-offensive, the urban movement flared up again, particularly in the provinces of [illegible] tactical zone. Develo[illegible] the military field as [illegible] as in the political field, it strongly hit enemy bases, depots and leading bodies.

— The South Vietnam army and people won resounding victories on land and river communications (Highways 13, 15, 1, 20, 4, the Long Tau River, the Dong Nai river...)

To face such a situation, the U.S. and puppet command had to scatter its troops more thinly than before; from Quang Tri and Thua Thien to Ca Mau, the enemy was threatened in all areas, continually lacking troops in spite of [illegible] forcements.

Such a situation [illegible] the way to a bigger [illegible] all-sided U.S. and puppet

(Continued page 2)

The article **Fiasco of "Destruction" and "Pacification" operations** *published in our issue of April 17, 1967, was written by* CUU LONG *and broadcast over* Giai Phong Radio *in South Vietnam.*

Editor

IT, WITHOUT OUT A GREAT PART
DESTROYING A LARGE QUANTITY
MEANS AND FOILING EVERY
ARMY AND PROPER OF
STRIKING UP THE BRILLIANT
AND CREATIVELY DEVELOPING
METHODS OF THE PEOPLE

[illegible] defeats loss of the [illegible], weaknesses and [illegible] are aggravated.

Despite U.S. ever increasing [illegible] up, the military offensive strategy of the South Vietnam army and people—[illegible] ever growing mili[illegible] political forces and [illegible] in the initiative [illegible] and winning [illegible] in developing in accordance with the law of the [illegible] war.

[illegible] Southern [illegible] have proved such operations, every made [illegible] small, that admirable [illegible] well used.

[illegible] a few days from the [illegible] to the plains and [illegible] Kon Tum, [illegible] Quang [illegible] Thua Thien provinces.

[illegible] a few initial wins, L.A.F. resident tactics [illegible] by a great variety [illegible] is closely combined in [illegible] such theatres [illegible] theatres.

The L.A.F. military [illegible] strategy has [illegible] and very divisions of [illegible] and an [illegible] strategic problem, [illegible] narrow fighting [illegible] to [illegible] their successes gener[illegible] and more frequent.

The military offensive strategy is ever more closely [illegible] with, and effectively [illegible] political actions and [illegible] work among enemy troops.

To carry out their counter-offensive strategy, the enemy keep boosting up their troop strength and fattening every strategic plan. They have [illegible] effective and [illegible] [illegible] of their [illegible] offensive plans with a view to giving out regular L.A.F. forces and destroying substantially [illegible] areas, the American aggressors have mobilized a big mobile troop strength and launched a series of "search and destroy" operations against [illegible] areas in the South Vietnam theatre. Mobile forces from "fixed" U.S. units have played the part of shock troops in relatively large deployments in dozens of battles at full division strength or more directed against the areas supposed to be L.A.F. bases in the mountains or in the plains. There have also been hundreds of "sweeps" involving one or several battalions or regiments. The enemy used up-to-date techniques and war means, drops tens of thousands of tons of bombs, tens millions of shells, has recourse to all U.S. tactics, including heli-borne, armour-borne [illegible] tactics, great mobility, reinforcement tactics, co-ordinated operations and what not all this puts such finished looks on the U.S. plan.

[illegible] U.S. expeditionary forces have shown many fundamental weak points, and the L.A.F. many fundamental strong points.

The strength of the enemy lies only in a big troop strength, a strong support firepower and great mobility. [illegible]

[illegible] dirty tricks, the South Vietnam army and people have shot down that a telling blow to the U.S. gill of aggression.

Through the trial by fire the U.S. expeditionary forces have shown many fundamental weak points, and the L.A.F. many fundamental strong points.

The strength of the enemy lies only in a big troop strength, a strong support firepower and great mobility. [illegible]

The L.A.F. are ready to go into action

tlaid forces and drattering their rear (Tay Ninh, Thu Dirong). They put out of action an important part of enemy forces, the notorious coastal tactics, combining large-unit actions with guerilla warfare to annihilate the enemy and defend the revolutionary bases.

[illegible] people attack from a losing position of passivity and weakness, to the repulsion of the increasingly unfavourable relations of forces. Though [illegible] to counter-attack, they are forced to take defensive measures; though [illegible] to take the offensive, they have to act on the defensive. Their counter-offensive are marked by a passive character; elements of the defensive act on the increase in their counter-offensive strategy. In their general strategy, they try to counter-attack; but in their strategic operations, on a battlefield and in a certain period, they are reduced to the defensive. The most [illegible] the defensive is probably patent in their counter-offensive strategy. For [illegible] that their counter-offensive and offensive [illegible] by the [illegible] have dealt by our [illegible], they get battered while and when they [illegible] to the defensive. In their great surprise, their strategic position does not [illegible] with the increase of their troops, the counter-offensive forces does not grow stronger; their strategic position goes from bad to worse.

Taking the war as a whole and arbitrarily speaking, our initiative, our strength and increasing strength and winning positions are our fundamental forces, the enemy's loss of the initiative weakness and setbacks are his fundamental foibles. This is a factor that guarantee that the South Vietnam army and people are able to frustrate all enemy great U.S. strategic plans, achieve ever bigger military successes, however great U.S. build-up may be.

With a grim strategic determination, in the offensive and counter-offensive of the people's war, the South Vietnam army and people have concentrated all their forces, resolute to foil every dry-season counter-offensive plans as they defeated the U.S. puppet "digging in the defensive" plan in the rainy season. Holding the initiative, L.A.F. units have intercepted and checked counter-offensives in every theatre, from Eastern Nambu to the High Plateau of Tay Nguyen and the plains of Central Trung Bo, achieved resounding exploits such as at Ban Hang, Long Nguyen, Nha Ba, Xuan Sen; they have lured the enemy out to fight as at Thi Ne, Dong Giap, Tay Ninh, Thi Dirong, East Ben Tinh, Highway 9... they have made deep thrusts into enemy lairs, unremittingly striking at cities, airbases, harbours, depots; they have extended guerilla warfare to guerilla bases, against land and river communications, constantly maintaining the enemy in the exhaustible battle army of the people's war. The L.A.F. have skilfully opposed their assets and strong points to the weak points of the Amer-

[illegible] and the [illegible] of U.S. operational and tactical plans [illegible] quently prove that the U.S. "search and destroy" objective — the cornerstone of the U.S. "point military strategy" — has not been achieved.

Meanwhile, the opportunistic forces in South Vietnam have [illegible] strategy, [illegible] over and the L.A.F. have particularly [illegible] progress. The [illegible] and the three kinds of armed forces have grown up through the crucible of fire and developed abundant combat experience: the regular, regional and guerilla forces have increased in numbers and what is more important, in combativity. They have developed harmoniously and have never fallen in a fairly rational way. Also this year, the three kinds of armed forces have been able to co-ordinate offensively, through combine guerilla warfare with large unit actions, and co-ordinate operations in various theatres, with a view to maintaining and developing their initiative and relentless offensive.

While U.S. warlords boast that their military situation has improved and that they [illegible] military means at [illegible] Finally, the enemy situation is essentially in [illegible] troops and artillery. The [illegible] strong firepower combat [illegible] general [illegible] tactics and powerful [illegible] [illegible] The U.S. [illegible] have revealed [illegible] lives and proven [illegible] through the comparison with the South Vietnam army and people. A [illegible] fulfilment complete, a [illegible] dedication and [illegible] U.S. [illegible] [illegible] spring [illegible] fortresses in the Vietnam theatre. U.S. positive and half-hearted tactics have been defeated by the orthodox and flexible schemes of the L.A.F. [illegible] further in their [illegible] very [illegible] but [illegible] weather, in spite of efforts to improve transportation, tactics and technique, [illegible] (Feb. 6, 1967) [illegible] remarking that U.S. infantry in Vietnam was only to support air force and artillery.

The enemy weak points are obviously the L.A.F. flexible strong points. Having no air force and powerful armoured artillery, [illegible] support. Moreover, the [illegible] have a grim determination [illegible] to annihilate the enemy; they have a high fighting spirit, constantly neutralize the enemy's strong points, aggravate his weak points to annihilate him. Fighting in their own land, with the co-operation of their people, they are accustomed to the climate and familiar with the terrain.

Promoting to the utmost their initiative, valiant and skilful, they patiently develop the best methods of fighting of their own, creatively applying the various constant forms and tactics of guerrilla war; no wonder that the longer they fight, the stronger they grow and the more thoroughly they score victories in spite of U.S. superiority in weapons and numbers.

It is safe to say that the quality of the A.R.V.N. is exceptionally superior to that of their opponents. On the battlefield, the number of combat troops is very important, but their quality is the decisive factor. Reality has proved that the L.A.V. are fully able to neutralize the adverse numerical superiority with their high fighting capacity, to defeat big forces with small forces, with an unflinching fighting spirit and an expert use of revolutionary and guerrilla fighting methods. The L.A.V. have turned the enemy's big offensives into a "small force", his strength into "weakness". They have turned their own "small force-weakness" into a big one, increased their dynamic combativity fostering and maintaining high fighting morale against the enemy.

* In 1966 alone, enemy enemy forces were put out of action (including [illegible] U.S. and puppet troops) including 17 U.S. helicopters, 7 armored helicopters, 7 warships, 11 U.S. aircraft of various types destroyed or destroyed; 3,000 military vehicles (including 1,000 armoured cars) destroyed. In this connection it is

"THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS WAR IS ONE OF AGGRESSION BY THE UNITED STATES!"

At a press conference held on April 14 last in Hanoi, members of the Fourth Investigation Commission of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal spoke about the crimes perpetrated by the American imperialists in their war of aggression on Vietnam. This followed visits and investigations conducted by the Commission in a number of areas in North Vietnam. We give below excerpts from this speeches.

CHARLES COBB

Central committee member of the S.N.C.C., a revolutionary organization of the negroes

... "The innumerable acts of crimes committed by the U.S. in the D.R.V. most graphically point out the barbarous commitment of the United States to wage war against the Vietnamese people, particularly striking at the social organization of their country. That the U.S. says it is striking only at "military targets", is only a hypocritical facade of words behind which all manner of criminal and genocidal acts are committed, clearly shown through the evidence and experiences of our travels, the travels of others in the D.R.V.

It is important to understand that L.B. Johnson knows that his war is against the Vietnamese people, for it is a world that aspires to, and succeeds in, liberation, that poses the deadly danger to the neo-colonial efforts of years. Within the U.S., we—black people—represent that segment of the world which the U.S. commits criminal acts against daily. We know that if the United States is allowed to continue its aggression against the Vietnamese people in particular, and the world generally, that it will at an continuous spiraling towards more and more fascist repression of black people, constituting itself around a kind of neo-nazism at the expense of struggling colonial peoples around the world. Already, we have seen in our neighbourhoods of black America, troops used against us and buildings bombed. In the next step in America's war against black people, pulling bombs and napalm!".

JULIUS LESTER,

A negro artist of the S.N.C.C.

We know from experience that when Lyndon Johnson talks about freedom, he's fooling whenever claims for

weekly by Time [illegible] Newsweek magazines.

"I [illegible] in Vietnam [illegible] Lyndon Johnson [illegible] he was in fact, bombing every village, every village, every rice-field [illegible] he could.

"... The Vietnamese and Afro-American people have the same enemy, and neither of us can truly live in peace until this enemy is destroyed. I have no doubt about the fact that if the United States is allowed to continue its aggression against the Vietnamese people in particular, and the world generally, that it will at an continuous spiraling towards more and more fascist repression of black people, constituting itself around a kind of neo-nazism at the expense of struggling colonial peoples around the world. Already, we have seen in our neighbourhoods of black America, troops used against us and buildings bombed. In the next step in America's war against black people, pulling bombs and napalm!".

GISELE HALIMI

Advocate of the French Bar of Appeal

(...) Now we [illegible] without [illegible] in case of aggression by the United States, there can be no doubt about it.

To this crime of aggression [illegible] at killing peaceful [illegible] men, women and children. [illegible] the dangers of [illegible] are changed by Johnson.

Can all this be identified with the law of war in the [illegible] jurisprudence, the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of the United States, as well as the charters and the Nuremberg Tribunal?

The path followed by this country is [illegible] Vietnamese people [illegible] the most there is [illegible] the greatest respect [illegible]

To change on to the [illegible] the enemy [illegible] we go to [illegible] the [illegible] under all circumstances [illegible] path to the great [illegible]

The Vietnamese [illegible] Revolution is not the [illegible] calls for change [illegible] American.

The Vietnamese people's [illegible] is that of people [illegible] struggle waged to change life in lieu of death were [illegible] by the aggressor; the Vietnamese people's [illegible] is that which holds for them and for us. In [illegible] peace, in peace, for all.

Pentagon White only — Sept. 1966

U.S. AGGRESSIVE WAR IN VIETNAM RUNS COUNTER TO ALL INTERNATIONAL LAW

The New York Times of Jan. 13, 1967, carried a statement by the Committee of American Lawyers on U.S. policy in Vietnam [illegible] in Vietnam from the point of view of international law.

The statement was immediately received by the Vietnamese people [illegible] Lawyers Do Xuan Sang and Pham Thanh Hai have written to the Nhan Dan paper [illegible] the statement of the American lawyers [illegible] the full text of the article [illegible]

[illegible] of the Geneva Agreements, the latter stated that "the [illegible] has never received the constitutional [illegible] of U.S. "approval". In other words, the "special status" of the U.S. in South Vietnam is a travesty of both international law and the American Constitution.

In August 1965, in the aftermath of the American [illegible] against massive dispatch of U.S. troops and war [illegible] to South Vietnam and war escalation against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, a "Committee of American Lawyers for examination of the U.S. policy in Vietnam" was set up in New York with Robert Kenny as its Honorary Chairman and William L. Standard as its Chairman. This Committee made public the following [illegible] conclusions:

In August 1965, a juridical Memorandum entitled: "The U.S. policy in Vietnam in the light of our Constitution, the Charter of the U.N.O., the 1954 Geneva Agreements and the South-East Asian treaty of collective defence". This Memorandum containing the fundamental conclusion of progressive American lawyers, rejected point by point each pillars of the Johnson administration aimed at camouflaging the unjust and illegal character of its war of aggression against Vietnam. Many American jurists have used this document as a juridical weapon to support counter-action. Others [illegible] that in case they would get to Vietnam they would have all legal and moral right not to fire on the Vietnamese.

— In late 1965, the Committee issued a brief petition making amendments to the Memorandum and adding concrete demands to the U.S. government. This petition was widely distributed among American lawyers, intellectuals and peace militants and received nearly 5,000 signatures, according to the American press.

In January 1966, a letter was sent to the [illegible] United States [illegible] Front [illegible]

— In early [illegible] President [illegible] State Department [illegible] that [illegible] to [illegible] in Vietnam [illegible] conflict [illegible] Union [illegible] that [illegible] in Vietnam [illegible] S.E.A.T.O. [illegible] "[illegible] the" [illegible]

The [illegible] 15, [illegible] United States [illegible] American [illegible] tion. It [illegible] [illegible]

4. — The [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of the United [illegible]

[illegible] United States [illegible] State [illegible] [illegible] Front [illegible]

U.S. Air Raid On Populous And Industrial Quarters Of Haiphong On April 20

NEW ESCALATION DULY PUNISHED :

5 U.S. Planes Downed, Many Others Hit

Here and There in D.R.V.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Vegetables Grown On Bomb-Craters Edges

No factory nor enterprise is left intact at the N.T. industrial centre. Here a roof is sagging, there a chimney is riddled with bullets or bomb splinters. Craters, big and small, dot the ground. But no factory stops working: the war life goes on smoothly as ever.

Around the construction sites is a vast kitchen-garden. Water lilies and taros grow in the bomb pits; cabbages, cauliflowers, parsleys, onions, garlics, chilli are plant'd everywhere, on the shelters, on the parapets of communication trenches, as well as on the edges of bomb pits. Each season had its varieties, in summer like in spring. There are so many vegetables to share that they are used in [illegible] [illegible].

Bomb craters have also been arranged to rear fish, which bring a fairly sizable income for after 7 or 8 months a fish weighs up to one kilogramme.

Every worker rears hybrids of hens or ducks. Here they are trained in air-raid precautions and know that upon hearing an alert signal they have to run to safety.

Pig rearing enjoys special [illegible] because it is the main source of supply of meat and fat. At the power station the cooks kept nearly one hundred hogs apart from over one hundred cows and fifty goats. All these animals are provided with proper shelters.

At the power station, the G.V.I. factory, the site-H construction site, each meal usually comprises three or four dishes. Pork, beef, chicken, fish... are delivered each week according to a menu, each ration is more substantial than before the American aggression.

All these achievements have accounted for the understanding between the managing boards and the workers on the necessity to organise their life so as to be able to carry out production and fighting satisfactorily and for a long time and [illegible]

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG thanks the American "Spring Mobilization Committee"

Recently, Messrs. Dellinger, S. Lynd, and Miss B. Deming, from the "Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam", sent a telegram to Premier Pham Van Dong [illegible] of the American people. Following is the full text of Premier Pham Van Dong's reply:

To Messrs. Dellinger, S. Lynd,
Miss B. Deming,
New York.

Dear friends,

I sincerely thank you for your telegram. I am glad to learn that broad sections of the American people are organizing a "Spring Mobilization" to demand that the U.S. government stop its war of aggression against Vietnam and bring American troops home.

We Vietnamese people are very thankful to the American people for their positive efforts against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam. By so doing they are giving valuable support to the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and freedom, and at the same time, fighting for their own interests.

The Vietnamese people are convinced that the American people will further intensify their struggle and resolutely demand that the U.S. government unconditionally stop bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V., withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

With sincere wishes for full success to the "Spring Mobilization" drive.

Cordial greetings,
PHAM VAN DONG

Luther King denounced the war of aggression in Vietnam as illegal and unjustifiable. He said that the crimes committed by the U.S. in Vietnam were severely condemned by the world's people, and urged the American people to give a strong [illegible] to the movement against the Vietnam war.

On the same day, April 15, in San Francisco, [illegible] people held a demonstration [illegible] against the [illegible] in Vietnam. At a meeting [illegible]

500,000 AMERICANS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR

Hundreds of American Youths Burn Their Draft-cards

[illegible] Committee and the [illegible] Mobilization Committee, April 15, [illegible] citizens from all parts of the States came to New York to demonstrate against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

In the evening, despite the [illegible] the demonstrators met [illegible] Central Park and Harlem. Then they marched past the U.N. headquarters, headed by [illegible] Martin Luther King, leader of the civil right movement and many leaders of anti-war organizations. Many slogans were put up such as "Children are not born to burn"

[illegible] leaders, religious believers, peace fighters, white and negro congressmen, coming from such cities as Cleveland, Detroit, Colombus, and Indians from Arizona, South Dakota, etc.

Among the demonstrators were many mothers with their babies and a 9-member family from Ohio. To repress the demonstration, the American authorities mobilized 35,000 policemen and security agents. Early [illegible] think, McNamara, war criminals".

Many demonstrators hoisted the South Vietnam N.F.L. flag and carried big portraits of President Ho Chi Minh.

Before leaving the Central Park, nearly 100 youths burnt their draft-cards amidst loud applause from the crowd.

When the demonstrators arrived in front of the U.N. headquarters, Dr. Martin

In Support of the American People's Struggle Against the Vietnam War

DEMONSTRATIONS OF PEOPLES OF VARIOUS COUTRIES IN THE WORLD

JAPAN

The [illegible] Peace Committee [illegible] held a [illegible] Tokyo [illegible] the support [illegible] Vietnamese [illegible]

At the meeting, Mr. Tsuru Okamoto, a well-known Japanese personality, declared: "Our mobilization in great numbers [illegible] the support of U.S. [illegible] against North Vietnam, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. We strongly condemn the [illegible] Japan and Okinawa for the Vietnam war."

GAMBIA

A delegation of Gambian people [illegible] the U.S. [illegible]

demonstration in New York under the slogan, "Vietnam for Vietnamese". Real the collapse of Canada in the war", in many other cities demonstrations against the war in Vietnam also took place. In Tungsto and Montreal, the demonstrators [illegible] put the American association in support of the American people's struggle for an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam.

BRAZIL

Over ten people demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

ITALY

Hundreds of youth in Italy demonstrated against the U.S. war in Vietnam. Another meeting was held in a locality near Palermo where warships of the 7th Fleet were lying at anchor. A Bloom and Stripes was burnt.

FRANCE

In Paris a demonstration took place in which slogans opposing the U.S. war in Vietnam were chanted.

GREAT BRITAIN

American residents in London held a demonstration in which they carried in front of the American embassy a coffin covered with an American flag as a protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

[illegible]

The [illegible] of [illegible] Towers and [illegible] tion demanding [illegible] [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] ARAB COUNTRIES

[illegible] U.S. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

VIETNAM COURIER

ON THE OCCASION OF THE WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES (Apr. 19-25)

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN THE FRONT LINE AGAINST U. S. IMPERIALISM

On April 19, this year the people in many countries in the world opened the week of solidarity with and support for the Latin American peoples in their struggle against U.S. imperialism and its henchmen. The week is of great significance as it is bound up with the anniversary of the Cuban bomb victory.

Six years ago, on April 19, 1961, the brave Cuban people smashed the military adventure of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys at Cuba's gate. A wonderful example of creative Lenin's theory on the Cuban bomb. The historic Cuban victory is one of the most brilliant military exploits of the heroic Cuban people and of the Marxist-Leninist's concrete victory of the national liberation movement, especially the movement against U.S. imperialism. With the Cuban victory, the Cuban people, courageous and indomitable, have also given lessons to the world that a small nation living next door to the U.S. imperialists, that already united East but by a Nagelkerke Tonkinese political theory, and unilateral, with a correct revolutionary line and [illegible] can [illegible] and [illegible] the support from the world people, will certainly win victory. [illegible] the Cuban revolution [illegible] victory but only has defended the Cuban revolution and also has strongly stimulated the struggle for national liberation in Latin America to surge up in a new battle.

Within a short period since the Cuban bomb went down in history, many changes have taken place in Latin America and have stirred up mankind. The free island of Cuba in America continues to advance powerfully on the road of socialist construction and has made much more progress in the development of economy, culture and education and in the consolidation of national defence. In Latin America, the flames of armed struggle in Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia, Dominican, Peru, Bolivia... are leaping up while the struggle of the workers in Argentina is spreading. Despite the measures taken by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to repress, purchase, split and undermine the movement, the Latin American people never part from their fighting banner. The Venezuelan liberation armed forces have many forms of activities. Despite repeated attacks by the enemy, the Guerrilla zone of the Colombian [illegible] presents a [illegible] patriotic forces have planted themselves to wage a protracted armed struggle till complete victory. [illegible] of the powerful growth of the armed struggle, the Peruvian guerilla forces have set up a supreme joint command to lead the movement all over the country. Early this year, together with the political struggle, the armed struggle of Bolivia has developed so strongly that the reactionary administration must proclaim "State of emergency" throughout the country.

Standing in the front line against the U.S. in Southeast Asia, the people and armed forces of our country are profoundly moved at the news that every patriotic action in Latin America is imbued with proletarian internationalism. The movement of "production for the sake of fighting Vietnam", of the Cuban people, the "Nguyen Van Troi" operation of the Venezuelan guerillas, the soothing demonstrations of the Uruguayan people holding the flags of the D.R.V. and the South Vietnam N.F.L. and the slogan urging the U.S. to quit Vietnam at a time when Johnson and his vassals were holding the Paris Dal Esto conference, all these activities deeply moved our army and people as a whole.

Welcoming the week of solidarity with Latin America, we will spearhead our struggle at the U.S. aggressors, the aggressive state, record many new feats of arms, regarding this as a worm welcoming to the struggle of our valiant brothers in Latin [illegible]

HANOI TRIBUNE

THE D.R.V. PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT CONDEMN THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES' ATTACK ON SYRIA

"On April 7, this year, the Israeli reactionary authorities, lackeys of the U.S. imperialism, [illegible] and [illegible] to attack the [illegible] Syrian territory. This [illegible] act of the Israeli reactionaries was duly [illegible] by Syrian army and people: [illegible] Syrian army had [illegible] than [illegible] wounded, [illegible]

In [illegible] April [illegible] history [illegible] explosive [illegible] killing many [illegible]

As everybody knows, the [illegible] —a tool for aggression of the U.S. imperialism in the Middle East [illegible] the Israeli [illegible] actually [illegible] aggression [illegible] countries [illegible] movement [illegible] 1967, they [illegible] military [illegible] the sovereignty [illegible] its civilian [illegible]

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [illegible] preventive acts of the Israeli reactionary authorities and demand that they stop [illegible] acts. The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam fully support the [illegible] of the people and Government of the Syrian [illegible] to defend the [illegible] sovereignty and [illegible] of their Fatherland and are convinced that the [illegible] will certainly win glorious victory.

[illegible]

Here and There in the D.R.V.

(Continued from page 4)

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following are a few figures concerning the results achieved in the cultural and educational fields.

Medicine

In 1954 there were 17 hospitals throughout Vietnam. In 1956 North Vietnam had more than 100 [illegible] with 4,000 beds.

The number of newly [illegible] doctors, [illegible] graduating [illegible] in 1957 there were [illegible] for [illegible] people.

In 1956 there were [illegible] for [illegible] people.

[illegible] people.

[illegible] people.

[illegible] people.

[illegible] conditions [illegible] agricultural [illegible] Thanh Hoa province [illegible] Hoa province [illegible] people.

[illegible] American expanded war escalation in North Vietnam.

Education.

With the 1956-1957 academic year the number of facilities and institutes in the D.R.V. had been brought from 27 to 33, and the number of students from 35,363 to 46,447 in comparison with the previous year.

In general education, the current school-year witnesses the admission of 2,500,000 pupils into primary schools, 840,000 into elementary schools and over 110,000 into secondary schools. On the average 19 out of 100 people attend general education classes. In complementary general education there were 1,200,000 pupils in 1956 from primary to secondary classes. Under bitter fighting conditions some villages in Thanh Hoa province have put forth the motto: "We attend classes even under the bombing". Cam Binh village (Cam Xuyen district, Ha Tinh province) keeps prosecuting general education. 90 percent of the population (1,500) go to school. There are 13 kindergartens, 8 pre-school establishments, 15 primary and 8 secondary schools, and 30 forms for junior and senior secondary complementary education.

Of late President Ho Chi Minh commended 500 outstanding pupils and 150 teachers for their achievements in the past school-year. These were pupils noted for their behaviour, study, physical culture, and productive labour. As for the teachers they had been awarded the title of elite workers, distinguished themselves by their professional experience and enjoyed the approval of most of their colleagues in their own provinces or towns.

LIGHT INDUSTRY 1957 FIRST QUARTER PLAN OVER FULFILLED

Light industry enterprises have topped the market by their 1957 First quarter plan on different items of importance. Many reached more or less than two-third of their annual plan.

In the textile industry, cotton-material running surpassed the target. With regard to other goods such as underwear, cotton blankets, towels, sewing thread, the plan was fulfilled from [illegible] to 106.8 per cent.

In the food-processing industry, tea, alcoholic drinks, vermicelli, [illegible] surpassed the quarterly target by at least 7 per cent. In particular, tea and [illegible] increased by [illegible] per cent.

In the making of such compositions as plastics, [illegible] [illegible] soap, [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible] per cent.

In the [illegible] the plan [illegible]

Six tapping down to [illegible] plan under way

FOR THE AMERICAN PRISONERS' FAMILIES

To: Mr. FRANK GARNER WOODS
Rural Free Delivery
Harlan City, Missouri
U.S.A.

My Dear,

[illegible]

[redacted] [redacted]

JUN 23 AM 1967 07093

MR [redacted]

[redacted] Missouri

Bolzman
62c

[redacted]

[redacted] Americans.

While we were in Vietnam the authorities entrusted us with the enclosed letter & we delivered it to you. I do so with all my heart, mindful of the suffering being undergone by so many families both here and in Vietnam.

With best wishes for yourself and your family, and praying God for an early peace, and the safe return of your loved one,

Sincerely,

(Fr.) Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

AIR MAIL

Airmail
AIR MAIL

Special Delivery

REGISTERED
No. 322425
MIAMI

AIR MAIL
Special Deliv

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. [redacted]

Missouri

80

93

74

c/o Liberation
Room 1025
5 Beekman
New York, NY

Boilerman 67c

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I am enclosing a letter from [redacted] given me by the North Vietnamese government while I was in Hanoi in mid-October. I'm sorry for the long delay in delivering it but as you might know I was deeply involved in the release of the three US sergeants from the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam.

I did not meet [redacted] in the prison camp, but I've met several of the pilots held there. I have not read his letter to you, of course, but my impression is that the men are treated well and someday will be home.

If you have any questions to ask me, or possible messages you would like sent on to [redacted] I might be able to help and I certainly would be happy to discuss the situation with you. In recent months I've been involved in talks with the North Vietnamese about releasing some of the pilots, and occasionally there has been some sign of interest. But the recent increased bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong probably ended any chance of this in the near future.

I hope for an immediate end to this war.

Best wishes,

Tom Hayden

Tom Hayden

Rm 1025
5 Beekman St.
NYC, NY

Boilerman 67c

[redacted]

Missouri

FD-302 Rev 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 21, 1970

1

[redacted] Kansas, was interviewed at her residence at which time she advised as follows:

She is the wife of [redacted] a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

She related that the Department of Defense confirmed his prisoner status in August, 1969.

Mrs. [redacted] related that in March, 1970, she read an article in one of the Kansas City newspapers concerning the Committee of Liaison with families of servicemen detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). She stated this article indicated that COLIFAM could put prisoner's of war in contact with their families, via mail.

She stated she wrote to CORA WEISS, the individual listed in the aforementioned newspaper article in an effort to determine whether or not COLIFAM could effect contact between her and her husband.

She went on to say that in April, 1970, she received word from BARBARA WEBSTER, who advised her she had cabled North Vietnam and received a return cable saying that her husband, was in fact, a prisoner of war. WEBSTER indicated she was expecting a letter from him in the near future and that this would be forwarded to Mrs. [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] related that on May 16, 1970, she received two letters from her husband through COLIFAM. She went on to say she has since received two additional letters in June, 1970, through this organization.

[redacted]

On 9/16/70 at [redacted] Kansas File # KC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/21/70

Mrs. [redacted] went on to say that the letters were not accompanied by any literature from the organization nor did the organization make any requests of her.

She did say, however, that there was a cover letter in both instances with her letters advising that the enclosed letters had been received from [redacted] and it was a pleasure for COLIFAM to forward them to her. This cover letter was from BARBARA WEBSTER.

Mrs [redacted] related she has sent letters to COLIFAM to forward same to her husband. She stated that one letter a month since June, 1970, has been forwarded by her to COLIFAM for delivery. She stated she has neither sent nor received any packages through this organization.

Mrs [redacted] related the only other individual who she knows who has had contact with this organization is [redacted] who resides in [redacted] She [redacted] husband is also a prisoner of war [redacted] has been contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She said that [redacted] refused to tell the FBI anything.

Mrs [redacted] concluded by stating she would not testify as to any of the above in the future because she feels it would jeopardize her potential for future contacts with her husband. She furnished the above information under those circumstances and stated she is aware of the identities of some of the individuals involved in COLIFAM and "does not believe in what they stand for" however, they have accomplished a means of contact between her and her husband and she does not want to jeopardize future contacts in any way whatsoever.

Mrs [redacted] did say, however, that if COLIFAM made any requests from her, she would contact the FBI and furnish them this information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FO 12812-670

Date 10/26/70

1

[redacted]
POW/MIA FO 12812

Mrs. [redacted]
advised that she was being interviewed at the direction of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General.

She stated that her husband, [redacted] is currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, having been shot down April 22, 1966. She stated that she first recieved a letter from him in February, 1967, through regular channels, at which time he told her he was a prisoner of war. She stated that she received about two letters each year through regular channels, and last year received about four letters through regular channels..

She stated that she first received a letter which was a form letter from the Committee of Liaison, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York, and she believed the first letter she received from this committee was about one year ago. She stated that this year she has received about six letters from her husband, which came through this committee. She advised that always enclosed with her letters is some type of literature concerning North Vietnam, and she has kept all of her letters which she will make available in the event it becomes necessary.

She stated that she has never been contacted personally by anyone in this committee, and she stated that she has never acknowledged them or sent anything through this committee. She stated that on May 4, 1970, she received a letter from this committee, which enclosed a letter from her husband. In the letter Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ stated that on April 20, 1970, he had returned from a three week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. On June 14, 1970, she received another letter which also enclosed a letter from her husband, and this letter was signed by BARBARA

FO 12812-670

On 10/16/70 at [redacted] Kansas File # KC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/21/70

WEBSTER. She stated they were enclosing a letter from North Vietnam from her husband and that it, along with 142 others, were brought to the country by JEAN PALOMBOM, NANCY RUBIN, and JUDY CLAVER, who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she did not know of any other prisoner of war families in this area who had been approached or contacted by this committee.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she has never contacted this committee in any manner and she does not like to have to write her husband through this group and she would be willing to cooperate at a later date if her testimony was needed, if by doing so it would not cause any problems to her husband.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

b6 b7c

Date 10/27/70

[redacted]

POW/MIA EO 12812

Mrs. [redacted] Missouri, was interviewed at the [redacted] at [redacted] (UMC), concerning the Committee of the Liaisons with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] advised that her husband, [redacted] United States Air Force was shot down in January, 1967, while serving in Vietnam. Mrs. [redacted] advised that from October, 1966 to June, 1969, she lived at [redacted] Missouri, and in June, 1969, moved to [redacted] Missouri. On March 11, 1970, she received her first contact with the Committee of the Liaisons, when she received a mimeographed sheet advising her that her husband was alive and would be writing her a letter. Mrs. [redacted] stated that this contact was in the form of a registered or certified letter mailed to [redacted] Missouri. She stated she does not know why this address was used since neither she nor her husband have ever lived at that address. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has received six letters from her husband as follows:

Date of Letter	Date of Receipt
December, 1969	April, 1970
January, 1970	May, 1970
March, 1970	June, 1970
April 19, 1970	July, 1970
June 21, 1967 (to parents)	September, 1970
July, 1970	September, 1970

b6 b7c

On 10/16/70 at [redacted] Missouri File # KC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 10/22/70

b2a

[redacted] advised the last two letters were received at the same time, one for her and one for her mother-in-law, [redacted] Missouri. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she has furnished all of these letters and all the information regarding these letters to the United States Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

b2a

[redacted] advised that in each letter there is a note saying, "We're happy to say that blank has brought back some letters". She said that the person who brought back the letters was identified in each letter and that a small portion of "propaganda" concerning the Vietnam War was in each letter. She advised that she is only allowed to write and receive one letter per month and all of her contacts to date have been through the mail with no personal contact whatsoever. Mrs. [redacted] stated that her husband still uses [redacted] when addressing his letters to her, however, she has advised the Committee of the Liaisons of her correct address and they route these to her at her present address. She stated the Committee of the Liaisons has been very cordial to date and has not harassed her in any way.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that [redacted] Kansas, has also received some letters in the same manner as described above through the Committee of the Liaisons and stated that possibly Mrs. [redacted] Missouri, may have received some letters, however, Mrs. [redacted] has not heard that Mrs. [redacted] has received letters to date and does not want to inquire because this would probably upset Mrs. [redacted]

b2a

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she would be willing to testify if absolutely necessary, however, she would prefer not to testify in any matter concerning the Committee of the Liaisons if it could possibly be avoided.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b6 b7c

Date 11/16/70

1 [redacted]

POW/MIA EO 12958

[redacted] Missouri, was interviewed by SA [redacted] The Agent immediately identified himself and advised Mrs. [redacted] that a discreet investigation was being conducted regarding the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

Mrs. [redacted] stated her son, [redacted] is currently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. She stated that her son was a pilot shot down over North Vietnam almost four years ago. She advised that for approximately two years she only knew that he was missing in action, however, during August, 1969 three U. S. prisoners of war came out of North Vietnam, at which time they advised authorities that he was also a prisoner of war being held by the North Vietnamese. She stated that they had not received any communications from him from the time he was reported missing in action until April, 1970. At this time they received a letter from him which was forwarded to her at the Pleasant Hill address from the COLIFAM organization in New York City. She stated that this letter was written Christmas, 1969 and a card was with it stamped "Hanoi". She stated there was no doubt the letter was from him and was definitely in his handwriting, the handwriting appeared firm and he stated he was in good health.

b6 b7c

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has received no other communications from her son. She stated she received a subsequent communication from COLIFAM stating that donations were permissable. She wrote at this time, sending $2 or $3, and asked them exactly "what their intent was." She stated that she received a letter back from them which stated that their organization was just a "go-between" between the prisoners of war in North Vietnam and their families in the United States.

b6 b7c

On 11/12/70 at [redacted] Missouri File # KC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/13/70

b6 b7c

Mrs. [redacted] advised that she is not certain of the name of the senders of the first two letters. She stated she does remember the name CORA WEISS being connected with the COLIFAM organization. She also stated that on November 1, 1970, she and her husband, [redacted] received another letter from this organization again explaining how letters should be sent to the prisoners of war. This letter enclosed six-line forms on which the letters may be written. Also enclosed were two pamphlets telling how conditions were for the prisoners of war in North Vietnam. These pamphlets were entitled "They were Tortured" and "Prisoners of War in North Vietnam."

Mrs. [redacted] furnished the copies of this letter and its enclosures to SA [redacted] in order that Xerox copies could be made (see attached). She requested that the originals be returned to her and she would keep them in her possession and would make them available if they became pertinent in this matter. She stated that she would do everything in order to assist the FBI in its investigation and also everything she could to assist in having her son returned to the United States.

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has received no personal contact from any individuals connected with the COLIFAM organization, no unusual incidents have happened since her son has been a prisoner of war. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she does not trust the COLIFAM organization. She advised that she does not trust this organization because in her opinion it follows the communist line. She stated that she does not know if she would be able to testify in this matter, however, would make that decision in the event she was requested to do so. She again stated she and her family are 100 percent Americans and would do everything possible to help the United States Government.

COMMITTEE OF LI' SON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 212 (549 4478)

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:
COLIAFAM

October 30, 1970

Dear families,

This letter is being sent to all families of confirmed prisoners of war in North Vietnam as a general information memo to respond to the many questions we have received in recent weeks. Kindly excuse the form, but so many of your concerns are similar that we thought this more efficient. We are enclosing air letters for your use. One letter a month is still allowed. Kindly seal all letters sent thru the Committee of Liaison, and staple or clip photos inside the letter form. We have no interest in seeing mail.

A delegation of lawyers is leaving shortly fpr a visit to the DRV. They have expressed willingness to carry mail with them. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should have mail in our office no later than Nov. 7. We guarantee only that the mail will arrive safely in North Vietnam and will be delivered to the appropriate authorities. We have no way of guaranteeing that the prisoners will get each letter. That is beyond our ability. However, if the mail conforms to the regulations we have no reason to doubt its delivery. We believe that from what we have been told by families, there is some delay, even risk, in sending mail thru postal routes. Much of the mail sent has obviously gotten thru, but some has been returned, or may wait for long periods for irregular flights. The Vietnamese are using hand delivery only for getting mail to' the US because of the risky and unpredictable postal channels. Mail has been delayed and has taken months to arrive. They now wait for delegations to bring it.

ast month we sent 250 letters to North Vietnam with a group. All ail presently in the office will be delivered with the next group. s of now, over 1600 letters have been received since Dec. We do not now why some men have written more frequently than others. We also o not know if the list of 335 menannounced in April is final for hose being held by the North Vietnamese. When asked by family members, e have inquired about specific servicemen for whom there is substantial vidence of their capture. When we have a reply we will, of course, ot the families know. It is our understanding that until there is ome movement in Paris to respond to the proposals put forward by ne. Binh on Sept. 17, there will be no further move vis-a-vis pow's. hat is, until the two conditions are met, setting a fixed date for

the total withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam, and agreeing to withdraw support from the Thieu Ky Khiem regime, they will not be willing to discuss the prisoner issue. They have made it clear that they view this issue as part of the overall solution to the war, and it cannot be dealt with separately. Upon fixing that date and agreeing to withdraw support, prisoners from both DRV as well as those being held by the NLF in the South, will be released. They do not have to wait for the completion of withdrawal of troops.

Many articles, comics, newsletters have appeared on the subject of prisoners. We thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed which may shed more light on this subject. Mr. Van Dyke is an international lawyer currently on staff at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, Calif. He was formerly employed in the State Department working on the matter of prisoners. We send these along because they provide facts and a point of view not frequently seen in a discussion of this topic.

We appreciate being kept informed as to your changes of address, and continue to welcome your questions. We hope you continue to remember that we are here, not there, have no authority in handling prisoner affairs, and have tried to maintain a clear and efficient and reliable channel for communication between you and your sons and husbands. We look forward to the end of our task, for that will represent America's agreement to conclude the war and the release of the prisoners.

Sincerely yours

Cora Weiss

Mrs. Cora Weiss

P.S. We expect other delegations will be invited to North Vietnam in December and through the winter months. Any mail arriving after Nov. 7 will be held for the next group.

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

_____

SỐ LÍNH (Service number): _____

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

_____

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

VIA MOSCOW, USSR *(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)*

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

_____

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

_____

_____

_____

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated)..... .....

CHÚ CHÚ (N.B.):

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn *(Write legibly and only on the lines).*
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình *(Write only about health and family).*
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này *(Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).*

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
365 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

NEW YORK N.Y.
AM
1 NOV
1970

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. [redacted]

MO [redacted]

B0128122
62c

WERE THEY TORTURED?

JON M. VAN DYKE
Mr. Van Dyke, assistant professor of law at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., is now on leave of absence doing legal research in San Francisco. He is the author of North Vietnam's Strategy for Survival, *to be publi' . this year by Pacific Books.*

Two of the American fighting men most recently released from North Vietnam held a press conference in early September to "blow the whistle" on North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners, but their statements raised more questions than they answered—questions ... only about North Vietnam's handling of its captives ... also about how the Pentagon is using the released men.

At the elaborately staged press conference in the auditorium of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Navy Lieut. Robert F. Frishman and Apprentice Seaman Douglas B. Hegdahl said they had been tortured, by being put in small, ovenlike rooms and exposed to mosquitoes and rats. They also asserted that they had heard that other prisoners had received even worse treatment.

Until this press conference the authorities had not permitted any of the nine freed prisoners to give the press more than the most general information about their experiences. Wives of the pilots still in North Vietnam have similarly been discouraged from talking about the letters they receive from prison. The Defense Department's explanation of this muzzling has been that public discussions might dissuade Hanoi from releasing pilots in the future or cause them to retaliate against those remaining in prison.

After the torture-chamber tales of Frishman and Hegdahl, it seems hard to imagine how additional discussion could jeopardize the pilots remaining in North Vietnam, but the day after the press conference, officers of the Pentagon's Public Information Division phoned the seven other released pilots and told them to stay quiet.

Most of the seven followed these instructions and have continued to elude reporters. However, one pilot who was released in August 1968, Maj. Joe V. Carpenter, expressed surprise at the statements made by Frishman and Hegdahl. Although he would not go into any details because of the orders, Carpenter said he had not been tortured in North Vietnam nor had he heard of anyone being tortured. "In general," he stated, "my treatment was good." When asked why the Defense Department would not allow him to speak freely even after the press conference, Carpenter responded, "It's all part of a plan." The question inevitably arises: what plan?

Aside from the issue of the Pentagon's motives, the details given by Frishman and Hegdahl raise some doubts about their broad charge of "torture." The only first-hand examples they mentioned in their prepared statements were (*1*) being placed in solitary confinement in small rat-infested rooms with tin roofs which became inordinately hot; and (*2*) being exposed to mosquitoes which bit their legs until they swelled. These episodes, while certainly unpleasant, are different only in degree from the treatment the United States Army gave the Green Beret officers who are charged in the recent slaying of a Vietnamese counterspy. They were placed in solitary confinement in 5 by 7 foot cells with no toilet facilities and only a bare light bulb inadequate for reading. The Green Beret officers complained that their cells became inordinately hot.

Frishman and Hegdahl supported their charge of torture by giving examples of more serious physical harassment suffered by two other pilots. They said that Navy Lieut. Comdr. Richard A. Stratton, who made a well-publicized confession in March 1967, gave his statement only after having been strung up by his wrists and having his fingernails pulled out.

The confession was delivered through a loud-speaker to a Hanoi press conference at which one American photographer and a Japanese television crew were present. An American voice from behind a curtain gave a long statement about the war. When this was completed Stratton appeared from behind the curtain. He bowed deeply several times and then left without speaking. When the American photographer reported this scene, the United States protested that its pilots were being brainwashed, a charge which Frishman and Hegdahl now endorse.

It is hard to believe that Stratton actually had his fingernails pulled out, however, when none of the many persons who have seen him have reported physical harm. Because of the storm of protests which followed Stratton's "confession," North Vietnam invited many visitors, including Americans, to meet Stratton. Nobody reported seeing any scars or missing fingernails. Pictures taken of Stratton when he appeared from behind the curtain show that his hands were visible to the reporters, none of whom reported any injury. Pictures taken of Stratton in prison later show him to be a bit downcast, but in good health.

The second example offered by Frishman and Hegdahl was Navy Lieut. Comdr. John S. McCain III, son of the American Commander in the Pacific. McCain was injured quite severely when he landed in a lake in the heart of Hanoi after trying to bomb the city's main power plant on October 26, 1967. According to the two returned pilots, McCain has been kept in solitary confinement during most of his captivity. "It's hard enough just being in solitary confinement," Frishman said, "but when you're wounded like John it's harder." Frishman made no complaint that McCain had actually been physically hurt by the North Vietnamese, so it is difficult to understand why this is an example of torture. Furthermore, McCain was not kept in solitary confinemnt during the first six months of his captivity when his injuries were most severe. Air Force Lieut. Col. Norris M. Overly said after his release in February 1968 that he had shared a room with McCain.

There are other reasons for wondering about the charges made by Frishman and Hegdahl:

(*1*) None of the prisoners who had been released earlier complained of unprovoked physical mistreatment. Navy

Lieut. David P. Matheny, who was [illegible] in February 1968, said that he was beaten on o[illegible] occasion but only after he had struck a guard. The othe. pilots, both in the limited public statements they have made and in private discussions with government officials, have uniformly described their treatment as decent. Air Force Maj. Fred N. Thompson, released in August 1968, said that he was obliged to participate in formal interrogation several times, but that the North Vietnamese did not use any threats or pressure during their questioning. When Thompson told his interrogator that a question involved classified matter, the interrogator dropped the subject.

(2) Frishman and Hegdahl gave no hint to the Americans who accompanied them from Hanoi that they had suffered physical mistreatment. Rennie Davis, the leader of the group, said he had long and frank discussions with the men and that they had said nothing about being tortured. Only after the pilots had gone through extensive debriefings did they tell their torture stories.

(3) Hegdahl is a man of limited experience and training who suffered greatly while in North Vietnam, not because of the conditions of prison life but because of his inability to adjust to a situation of confinement. One of the few prisoners who was not shot down while bombing North Vietnam, Hegdahl was captured in the South China Sea after falling off the *U.S.S. Canberra* while it was maneuvering to evade shelling from the North Vietnamese shore. He had grown up in a small town in South Dakota, had enlisted in the Navy at an early age, was only 20 when captured in 1967, and had received none of the conditioning that pilots are given. According to Maj. James F. Low, who had shared a room with Hegdahl for a while before his own release in August 1968, Hegdahl was in a distressed mental state and it was very difficult to live with him. Hegdahl may, therefore, not be the most reliable of commentators on North Vietnam's prisons.

(4) The Pentagon's previous conduct regarding released prisoners has failed to produce a record that inspires trust. After the first group of three pilots was released in February 1968, the Pentagon, with the active assistance of William H. Sullivan, then ambassador to Laos, persuaded the pilots to return to the United States on a military plane, despite the express desire of North Vietnam that the representatives of the U.S. peace movement who had received the prisoners in Hanoi be allowed to accompany them on commercial flights all the way home. (See *The Nation*, April 1, 1968.) No additional prisoners were released until the United States promised to allow them to return on commercial flights. An even more serious breach of the spirit of North Vietnam's releases occurred in the fall of 1968 when the Air Force assigned two of the three pilots freed in August 1968 to teach other pilots to fly and bomb. It costs about $300,000 to train a jet fighter pilot, and the North Vietnamese did not like the thought that they were saving the Pentagon money by releasing future teachers. A member of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris complained to Averell Harriman in December 1968, and he arranged for the pilots to be assigned to other duties. Because of this incident North Vietnam apparently canceled a release it had scheduled for early 1969. Rennie Davis thinks that, by en[illegible]ging Frishman and Hegdahl to make their staten[illegible] the Pentagon has discouraged similar gestures by Hanoi in the future.

There are, of course, grounds for criticizing the treatment of American prisoners. North Vietnam refuses to release the names of even the total number of Americans it holds, insisting that this is a state secret which it wishes to retain for bargaining purposes in future negotiations. Partly to keep the number of captive pilots secret, North Vietnam refuses to allow many to write to their relatives. At least 388 and perhaps as many as 800 prisoners are held in North Vietnam. Fewer than 100 have been allowed to write home, and those 100 have written a total of only 600 letters. Also, perhaps, to keep the number secret, many prisoners are held in solitary confinement. This treatment is a clear violation of the requirements of the 1949 Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War (which North Vietnam signed in 1957) and it has had a demoralizing effect on many of the pilots. But until Frishman and Hegdahl spoke, that was all.

However, because the first six pilots who were released had all been in prison for less than eight months, because the prisoners whom Hanoi displayed to reporters tended to be the same ones again and again, and because many of the prisoners have yet to be identified, some U.S. officials devised the "Two Groups" theory. They surmised that North Vietnam treated some prisoners well, so that they would tell the world that the prisons were humane, and so that they could be sent home in good shape when the occasion suited, but that another group was kept in the background and treated badly. The release of Hegdahl after twenty-eight months, and of Frishman after twenty-one months, disrupted this theory, particularly when the two prisoners claimed mistreatment.

Shortly after the Frishman-Hegdahl press conference, some officials at the CIA expanded upon the "Two Groups" idea to suggest that the prisoners may be kept in three separate places. According to this theory, one camp holds those prisoners who cooperate, another those who are unusually difficult, and the third those who are neither cooperative nor difficult. This might explain the difference in treatment reported by the various pilots who have returned, but it poses another question: why would North Vietnam release prisoners who had been tortured?

Another explanation of the difference in treatment was offered by Frishman himself. He said that what he called "torture" may be the doings of jailers who act without the knowledge of North Vietnam's leaders. Frishman stated, as an example, that his conditions improved whenever a North Vietnamese general visited the camp.

North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners and its method of choosing those it releases may be puzzling, but the behavior of the United States toward those who have been freed is at least as mysterious. After ordering all the released pilots to say nothing, the Pentagon has allowed two of them to tell melodramatic stories, while demanding continuing silence of the others. Before the accounts by Frishman and Hegdahl can be accepted, the other freed prisoners must be allowed to tell their stories.

Reprinted from the CENTER REPORT Oct. 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON
with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

Jon M. Van Dyke:

PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM

(ED. NOTE: *The following excerpts are drawn from a paper which Visiting Fellow Jon M. Van Dyke presented for discussion at a recent Center roundtable.*)

For the past year and a half, the U.S. has condemned the North Vietnamese for their treatment of captured Americans. The North Vietnamese are portrayed as evil captors who unrelentingly harass American prisoners. The American prisoners are portrayed as virtuous men who find themselves in North Vietnamese prisons through an unfortunate and totally fortuitous series of events. The "prisoner-of-war problem" is depicted as an issue unrelated to the bombing and fighting that have been taking place in various parts of Southeast Asia throughout the past decade.

Although this effort succeeded in persuading the North Vietnamese to adhere more closely to the formal requirements of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, it is based on two false premises: (1) that the Geneva Convention can be applied without difficulty to the conflict in Vietnam and (2) that the United States and its allies conform to the requirements of the Convention. (The Geneva Convention was drafted in 1949 to deal with the problems of conventional warfare on European battlefields. It is difficult, if not impossible, to apply these provisions to a guerrilla war in Southeast Asia.)

The United States pays only minimal attention to the Convention when it is not in its interest to do so. American soldiers frequently torture captured Viet Cong in order to obtain information about nearby enemy units. Even more frequently, the U.S. permits the Saigon forces to torture prisoners after capture and throughout their period of captivity. The U.S. has failed to punish in any significant way soldiers who have killed or mistreated enemy captives, thus elevating this practice to an official policy. The U.S. also conducts a program of terror to eliminate Viet Cong political cadre a program that operates with total disregard for the safeguards of the Geneva Convention. Finally, because of its desire to give the American public the bleakest possible view of what the enemy's prison camps are like, the Pentagon has muzzled freed Americans who want to talk about the experiences they had in captivity.

The furor that has been created over North Vietnam's prison camps is understandable from a human point of view. There are men in prison who have been separated from their families for a period longer than in any previous war the United States has been involved in. One man has now been in Hanoi over six years.

The furor nonetheless does an injustice to the North Vietnamese, who have probably treated their captives better than any other nation fighting in Asia during this century. During World War II, prisoners of war in Asia were killed and allowed to die with little remorse. Twenty-seven per cent of the prisoners held by the Japanese during that war died, and a shockingly high percentage of the Japanese held in Allied camps failed to survive captivity. The treatment of prisoners during the Korean war was, at best, primitive. And the handling of captives by the United States and the Saigon government is in many respects worse than that of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

It is in this perspective that North Vietnam's prison camps must be analyzed. The most serious charges lodged against the North Vietnamese are the accusations of physical abuse brought back by two pilots a year ago. These charges are serious indeed, but the manner in which the Pentagon has handled public information about North Vietnam's camps makes it difficult to accept the statements at face value. The other seven pilots who have been released by North Vietnam have never been formally pre-

sented to the press. In fact, they ha all been told that it would not be beneficial to their military careers to say anything that would interfere with the government's attempts to put pressure on North Vietnam.

ABC News was finally able to persuade another of the freed pilots to speak last month and he gave quite a different picture of North Vietnam's prison camps. Air Force Captain Joe V. Carpenter said that he had been pushed around a bit when first captured, and was kept separate from the other prisoners, but that he had not suffered in any significant fashion. Physical conditions were not too bad, and he was able to make friends with the North Vietnamese who lived in the neighborhood of his cell.

The complaints lodged against the treatment of prisoners by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam mostly concern the extremely austere lodging and food. Many Viet Cong units are constantly on the run, so that until a prisoner can be taken to a secure area, the prisoner must also be constantly moving. Even in a secure area, the prisoner — like everyone else who lives in the area — must always be on guard for American bombing attacks.

Considering these difficulties, the treatment given to prisoners by the Viet Cong is probably as good as could ever be provided by a revolutionary army. Many of the Americans who have spent time in Viet Cong prisons during the last two years have, in fact, commended the enemy for the treatment received.

In November, 1969, three young GI's who had been prisoners for periods ranging from eight months to two years were released by the V.C. After they were transported to an Air Force Base in Japan, they were displayed to the press for fifteen minutes and proceeded to praise the Viet Cong for their treatment. Private Coy R. Tinsley of Cleveland, Tennessee, said, "I'd have to think twice before I'd fight them again after what they did for me. I was wounded. They took real good care of me."

The Army reacted typically to these stories of Viet Cong kindness. High officials decreed in January, 1970, that all soldiers subsequently

Jon M. Van Dyke, a Center Visiting Fellow, was, until recently, assistant professor of law at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. With four other law professors, he prepared a brief supporting Massachusetts' statute attacking the constitutionality of the Vietnam war. It was filed with the Supreme Court in August.

released from enemy prisons would be kept from the press until they had undergone extensive debriefings both in Vietnam and the United States and had gone through a "readjustment" period. The U.P.I. quoted informed military sources as saying that exceptions may be made if the former prisoner is found in his early debriefings to be hostile toward his captors.

The spotlight must be focused on U.S.-Saigon treatment in order to gain perspective on the relative merits of North Vietnam's handling of prisoners.

There are six formal P.O.W. camps run by the Saigon government, with the assistance of U.S. advisors, containing some 33,000 men. These camps are subjected to scheduled and unscheduled inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and they do conform to the Convention's requirements. Many of the Viet Cong who were captured never, however, make it to these formal camps.

There have been a number of trials during the past year of American G.I.s accused of killing Viet Cong prisoners. Despite uncontradicted eye-witness testimony, all of the accused have been acquitted or given extremely lenient penalties. These acquittals must be based on the knowledge of the officers on the court-martial panels that killing of prisoners take place among U.S. forces in South Vietnam all the time, and the media has confirmed that this is true. Television crewmen have frequently taken film of interrogators torturing suspects, and newsmen have photographed captives being pushed out of American helicopters.

Another large block of captives are deemed not to qualify for formal P.O.W. status by the overly-strict standards used by the United States and the Saigon governments, and they wind up in miserable South Vietnamese civilian prisons.

After the International Committee of the Red Cross visited one of these civilian prisons earlier this year — at Con Son Island, with its famous "tiger cages" — they found a group of prisoners of war from North Vietnam and discovered that they were mistreated in the following respects: they were never allowed out of their cells, they were strapped in irons every night from five in the evening to six in the morning, they were permitted to wash only twice a week, they were not given enough fresh food or water, and they were only rarely given fresh clothes.

Subsequently Dr. Marjorie Nelson told the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that she had regularly treated the victims of beatings and torture inflicted in a South Vietnamese interrogation center that had an American adviser. She said prisoners came to her after "being tortured by electricity with wires attached to ears, nipples and genitalia; being forced to drink concoctions containing powdered lime and other noxious substances; and being tied up and suspended by ropes upside down from the rafters for hours."

The United States government and its allies participate in such atrocities without much apparent concern, while at the same time condemning North Vietnam for its relatively tolerable prisoner treatment. ■

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/19/70

Bowman b7a

Mrs. [redacted] Kansas, was advised that this investigation was being conducted at the direction of the Department of Justice.

Mrs [redacted] advised that she has never heard from her husband since he was reported missing over Laos and she has no knowledge of his being a prisoner of war. She stated she has never been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAN), and she knows nothing about this organization. She stated the only person she knows in this area who is the family of a prisoner of war is Mrs. [redacted] Kansas.

[redacted]

Bowman b7a

Powlmia EO 12812

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

Bowman b7a

On 11/16/70 at [redacted] Kansas File: SC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/18/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/11/70

1

Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] The Agent immediately identified himself and advised Mrs. [redacted] that a discreet investigation was being conducted regarding the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

Mrs. [redacted] advised that her son is [redacted] who is currently a prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese. She said, however, she is not the next of kin according to military records as his wife, [redacted] Oklahoma, is listed as next of kin.

Mrs. [redacted] advised she maintains close contact with her daughter-in-law [redacted] and has received the following information from her:

[redacted] has received five letters from [redacted] All of them have been sent to her by the COLIFAM organization. She recalled [redacted] received two letters approximately April 1970, one letter in June 1970, one letter early in November 1970 and one card just prior to Thanksgiving Day 1970. She further advised that [redacted] has received communications from the COLIFAM organization in regard to the letters furnished to her from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] stated to her knowledge [redacted] was contacted by the COLIFAM organization and she herself has no information regarding the details of this contact. She stated in her opinion [redacted] would be most cooperative in any inquiry into this matter, however, neither she nor her daughter-in-law would want to do anything which might jeopardize the line of communication which has been opened to them from [redacted]

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11/30/70 at [redacted] Kansas File # KC 100-14050

SA [redacted] Date dictated 12/7/70

ERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIG

Date 12/14/70

1

B0 1-2 b7c

Mrs. [redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] The Agent immediately identified himself and advised Mrs. [redacted] that a discreet investigation was being conducted regarding the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Mrs. [redacted] stated that she is the mother of [redacted], who currently is a prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese. She stated that her son has a wife living in Charleston, South Carolina, who is listed as the next of kin according to military records. Mrs. [redacted] stated that she does not contact her son directly, however she writes to him through her daughter-in-law and to date she has only received one letter from him and that was forwarded to her from her daughter-in-law. B0 1-2 b7c

Mrs. [redacted] stated she has not been contacted nor does she know anything about the COLIFAM organization. She further stated that she and her daughter-in-law want to do everything possible to help this country and assist in the return of her son to the United States, however, neither of them wish to do anything that might cause hardship to come to him or break down the line of communication they have from him. Mrs. [redacted] believes that her daughter-in-law has only contacted her son through the regular channels set forth by the U. S. military establishment.

[redacted]

Pauline E01282

B0 1-2 b7c

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On 12/7/70 at [redacted] Kansas File # KC 100-14050

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 12/9/70

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: 12/31/70

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (100-4101) (RUC)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM
(COLIFAM)
IS - MISC
REGISTRATION ACT
(OO: NY)

Re Knoxville letters to Bureau with copies to New York dated 11/3; 4; 10; 13; 17; 20/70 and 12/4/70.

In referenced letter information set forth of interviews conducted with relatives of prisoners of war and of persons missing in action in North Vietnam.

Since all leads have been covered in this case no further action is being taken.

If any information is received re captioned matter the Bureau and interested offices will be notified.

[redacted] b7c

POW/MIA EO 12812

REC-1

EX-113

JAN 5 1971

CC 9 D

(2) - Bureau (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
1 - Knoxville

[redacted] b7c

(5)

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

[redacted] b7c

TELETYP

NR001 NY CODE

1230AM URGENT 12-27-70 RPM

TO DIRECTOR (100-457899) Pow/mia E.O. 12812

ATT DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

SEATTLE

FROM NEW YORK (100-168469) 2P

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM) IS - MISC.

Internal Security - Miscellaneous

ON DECEMBER TWENTYSIX, NINETEEN SEVENTY, NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES, J.F. KENNEDY AIRPORT, NEW YORK CITY, ADVISED THAT A MRS. WEISS CALLED THE AIRLINES AND ADVISED SHE REPRESENTED THE COLIFAM. SHE REQUESTED USE OF NORTHWEST'S LOUNGE ON DECEMBER TWENTYSEVEN NINETEEN SEVENTY FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THREE PASSENGERS RETURNING ON NORTHWEST FLIGHT NUMBER FOUR, TEN FORTY-FIVE P.M., DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN NINETEEN SEVENTY FROM TOKYO. PASSENGERS WERE GIVEN AS R. YOUNG, T. YOUNG AND A. BENNETT WHO WOULD HAVE NEW PRISONER OF WAR NAMES RECEIVED FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

ADVISED ABOVE FLIGHT ALREADY AIRBORNE. FLIGHT

END PAGE ONE

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REC-54 100-457899-20

EX-105

JAN 5 1971

51 JAN 8 1971

DEPARTED HONG KONG FOR TOKYO. FLIGHT TO ARRIVE SEATTLE, WASHINGTON ELEVEN TWENTY AM, DECEMBER TWENTYSEVEN NINETEEN SEVENTY (SEATTLE TIME) WHERE CUSTOMS INSPECTION WILL BE MADE. U.S. CUSTOMS WILL NOT SEARCH IN NYC. NO PRESS CONFERENCE BELIEVED SCHEDULED FOR SEATTLE.

ADMINISTRATIVE.....

MRS. WEISS PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH CORA WEISS, CO-CHAIRMAN OF COLIFAM. PASSENGERS PROBABLY RON YOUNG, OF FOLLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION, TRUDI YOUNG, HIS WIFE AND ANN BENNETT. NYO WILL ATTEMPT TO HAVE SA'S COVER CONFERENCE. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT CORA WEISS IN PAST HAS DEMANDED AUTHENTIC PRESS CREDENTIALS AT CONFERENCES.

SEATTLE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE THOROUGH SEARCH MADE BY U.S. CUSTOMS TO POSSIBLY OBTAIN PRISONERS NAMES OR LETTERS BEFORE PASSENGERS ARRIVE NEW YORK FOR PRESS CONFERENCE.

NYO WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AND ADVISE.

END

REM FBI WASH DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899) DATE: 12/31/70

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (100-15995) (P)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)
IS - MISCELLANEOUS;
REGISTRATION ACT
(OO: NEW YORK)

Re Columbia airtel to Bureau 7/18/70 and Miami airtel to Bureau 7/13/70.

Enclosed to Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. Two copies each of this LHM are enclosed for New York and San Diego.

LEADS

SAN DIEGO

At [redacted] California

If not already interviewed, Mrs. [redacted] should be interviewed regarding her prisoner of war husband [redacted] in accordance with New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.

MIAMI

Will interview and submit LHMs on results of interview with following persons:

At [redacted] Florida

Mrs. [redacted] She is wife of [redacted] POW's father is [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. -11) (RM)
2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. -2) (RM)
2 - San Diego (Enc. -2) (RM)
3 - Miami

REC-65 EX-113

JAN 4 1971

REC-35 EX-100

AGENCY: ARMY, ONI, OSI, SEC. DEF., STATE, DIA

DATE FORW: 1/11/71
HOW FORW: R/S

Bureau funds regularly in the P[redacted]

EO 12958 - 6(c)

At [redacted] Florida

Mrs. [redacted] She is wife of POW [redacted] POW's father is [redacted] Florida.

At [redacted] Florida

1) Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] Miami. They are listed as parents of [redacted]

2) Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] They are parents of Navy Pilot [redacted]

3) [redacted] She is listed as the mother of [redacted] missing in action since 10/3/66.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Miami, Florida

December 31, 1970

RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

INFORMATION REGARDING PRISONER RICHARD MULLEN, U. S. NAVY

On November 24, 1970, Mrs. [redacted] Florida, telephone number [redacted] advised she is the mother of [redacted] U. S. Navy, a naval aviator who is now a prisoner in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [redacted] said that [redacted] wife, [redacted] resides at [redacted] California, telephone number [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] said that around December, 1969, she received a letter from COLIFAM enclosing a four-line note from her son, [redacted] The letter from COLIFAM stated that COLIFAM was then cooperating with prisoners of war and that she would receive additional letters from COLIFAM.

Mrs. [redacted] said that the letter from [redacted] and the letter from COLIFAM are packed among her belongings which were recently shipped to Tavernier and therefore are not available at this time. She added, however, that [redacted] wife, [redacted] received a similar letter, and possibly other letters from COLIFAM and from her husband.

Mrs. [redacted] said she has never written to COLIFAM, nor has she contacted members of COLIFAM by any other means. The only contact COLIFAM made with her was by letter, as mentioned above.

ENCLOSURE

RE: COLIFAM

EO 11652
b7c

INFORMATION REGARDING PRISONER
PETER VAN SCHOEFFEL

Information regarding [redacted] was previously furnished in a memorandum dated July 13, 1970, under this caption. That memorandum contained information furnished by [redacted] father, [redacted] (Retired) who resides at [redacted] Florida.

On October 2, 1970, [redacted] made available a form letter from COLIFAM dated September 18, 1970, signed "CORA WEISS". [redacted] said he received a letter from his son as an enclosure to this letter. The envelope containing these letters was postmarked September 18, 1970, in New York, New York, and bears the return address "Committee of Liaison, 2nd Floor, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York. 10036."

Set forth is copy of the above described letter from COLIFAM.